

The actual claims which are allowed shall be known after the final settlement is arrived at.

Production of Cloth

5743. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people employed in powerloom sector and handloom sector separately;

(b) the quantum of cloth produced separately in each of these sectors during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the handloom sector was less benefited as compared to the benefits of concessions given to the textiles industry for export during these years; and

(d) if not, the value and quantum of cloth exported in 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 out of total cloth manufactured in each of these sectors alongwith the capital invested therein during these years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) The number of people employed in Powerloom and Handloom Sectors are 6.8 million and 12.9 million (approx.) respectively.

(b) The Quantum of cloth produced by the Powerloom and Handloom and sectors during the last three years are given below :

(in mn. sq.m)

| Sector | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 (Provisional) |
|-----------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| Powerloom | 15994 | 15976 | 16332 |
| Handloom | 5851 | 6180 | 7020 |

(c) No Sir. In fact the handloom sector has exported cotton fabrics and made-ups more than the targets during 1993-94, 94-95, except 95-96.

(d) The value of cloth Cotton fabrics & made ups exported during the last 3 years in Handloom & Powerloom Sectors is as below :

(Rs. in Crores)

| Sector | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 (Targets) |
|-----------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Mill made | | | |
| Powerloom | 3394.47 | 4620.64 | 5535.53 |
| Handloom | 1297.48 | 1504.60 | 1491.32 |

The quantity-wise export figures for separate sectors & figures on capital invested in the above segments of Textiles sectors are not maintained because of decentralised nature of vast fringe of each segment.

[English]

Rise in Price of Cement

5744. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been unprecedented rise in price of cement during the last three years;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government to bring down the price at the level of 1994-95; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. There has been no abnormal increase in price of cement during the last three years. During 1993-94, the price did not increase due to fall in demand and general recessionary conditions. During 1994-95 price increased on an average by Rs. 20-25/- per bag of 50 kgs. cement. This was mainly due to increase in the price of inputs, cost of fuel, transportation and overheads. During 1995-96 prices have been stable except during the period December-March which is a period of peak demand for cement. There were also short term rises in prices in a few markets like Bombay due to temporary shortages caused by transportation bottlenecks, strikes, etc.

(b) The control on price of cement has been removed with effect from 1st March, 1989. The industry has also been delicensed. Government has been encouraging creation of additional capacity and higher production of cement so that there is a healthy competition in the market and control on price. Government is providing all infrastructure support to the cement industry such as supply of coal and rail wagons on a priority basis.

(c) Does not arise.

Banking Support to Essar Group

5745. SHRI C. NARASIMHAN :

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI's Department of Supervision (DOS) recently investigated into exposure of the banking system in the Essar group;

(b) whether the DOS investigation of the Essar group revealed that the total exposure of all banks and institutions together was over Rs. 4000 crores which was completely out of line with the group's turnover;

(c) whether RBI's DOS has suggested that the entire exposure of the financial institutions in the Essar group be classified as substandard; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that based on a complaint received by it, the matter of alleged misuse of banks' funds by the Essar Group of companies was got investigated by the State Bank of India (SBI). The report submitted by SBI has revealed that in certain cases, transfers were only book entries and no clear idea could be formed about their end-use. RBI is advising the SBI to get the matter investigated by an independent Chartered Accountants firm.